Everlight Christianity: A Comprehensive Overview

Core Beliefs and Philosophy

Everlight Christianity represents a fusion of traditional Christian values with an open-minded embrace of wisdom from diverse sources. It holds that truth and understanding are not confined to one tradition or book but can be found universally across many cultures and religions, all leading back to the same divine source. Everlight Christianity maintains an inclusive approach, acknowledging that fragments of truth exist in all human beliefs, born from humanity's shared search for the Divine.

1. **Inclusivity of Wisdom**: Everlight Christians believe that God's wisdom permeates not only the Bible but also religious and philosophical texts from around the world. While the Bible remains the primary source of doctrine, teachings from other traditions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Indigenous beliefs, and even science, are also valued for their insights into humanity's place within creation. Each of these paths holds a glimmer of truth that reflects the Creator's design.
2. **God's Names and Universal Identity**: In Everlight Christianity, God is understood by many names that signify His all-encompassing presence. Titles such as "Or Olami" (Eternal Light) and "Melekh HaOr HaYachid" (Sovereign of the Singular Light) reflect the belief that God transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries. These names serve to honor God as the ultimate source of all wisdom and unity, recognized across various traditions, from Yahweh to Allah, Brahman to the Great Spirit.
3. **Unity in Diversity**: Everlight Christians believe that all monotheistic religions worship the same God, albeit understood in different ways. They also recognize the existence of polytheistic traditions, where a "High God" or supreme creator often governs a council or pantheon, similar to the concept of a divine hierarchy or Council of Heaven. In Everlight, these beings might be interpreted as divine messengers or powerful entities under the Almighty's authority, misunderstood over time as gods in their own right.
4. **Rejection of Absolute Good vs. Evil Color Symbolism**: Everlight Christianity rejects the notion that light inherently represents good and dark inherently represents evil. Instead, it acknowledges both as complementary aspects of creation. This approach challenges the conventional association of darkness with malevolence, embracing a more holistic view that all parts of creation have value.
5. **The Nature of Sin and Redemption**: While traditional Christianity views sin as a barrier between humanity and God, Everlight Christianity emphasizes sin as a misunderstanding or misalignment with divine purpose. Redemption, then, is seen as

an awakening or realignment with God's intent, facilitated by Christ's teachings and sacrifice, yet also achievable through sincere seeking and living in harmony with divine wisdom.

6. **Free Will and Evolution**: Everlight Christianity holds that God designed humanity to grow and develop spiritually over time, embodying free will at every stage. The belief that humans started from something small and developed over time aligns with evolutionary theory, suggesting that God initiated life with the potential to grow and change, respecting humanity's autonomy and capacity for choice. This understanding bridges faith and science, seeing evolution as a tool God used rather than a contradiction of His design.

Relationship to Other Christian Denominations

Everlight Christianity aligns with traditional Christianity on foundational beliefs about God, Jesus, and salvation but differs in significant ways:

1. **Scriptural Openness**: Unlike denominations that focus solely on the Bible, Everlight Christianity values all religious texts that reflect truth. While the Bible is the central and sacred text, teachings from the Quran, Vedas, Tao Te Ching, and other spiritual writings are respected and considered valuable in understanding universal principles.
2. **Critique of the King James Bible**: Everlight Christianity holds a critical view of the King James Version (KJV) and translations derived from it. The KJV is seen as an example of how political and linguistic biases can distort the original intent of scripture. Instead, Everlight Christianity emphasizes the use of translations closest to the original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, aiming to minimize the insertion of external beliefs and human biases. The emphasis is on translations that prioritize authenticity and clarity.
3. **Non-Binary Morality**: Everlight rejects a strictly binary view of good and evil. It recognizes that morality is nuanced and encourages individuals to seek personal alignment with God's wisdom rather than strictly adhering to rigid interpretations of right and wrong. This differs from more literal interpretations found in conservative denominations.
4. **Live and Let Live Principle**: Everlight Christianity emphasizes respect for personal choices, including those related to sexuality, lifestyle, and individual beliefs. It advocates for a "Live and Let Live" philosophy, distinguishing between accepting people and endorsing every choice. Everlight Christians do not believe it's their role to judge others but rather to live in harmony and compassion, trusting that everyone has their own spiritual journey.

5. **Acknowledgment of Psychological Complexity**: Everlight Christianity takes a progressive approach to mental health and personality differences, like sociopathy. Recognizing that people have varied ways of experiencing and expressing emotions, it encourages growth through understanding, kindness, and support rather than condemnation. The focus is on self-awareness and transformation rather than strict moral judgments.

Sacred Texts

While the Bible remains the cornerstone, Everlight Christianity draws from a broader canon, including:

Apocryphal and Deuterocanonical Books: Texts excluded from the Protestant Bible, such as the Book of Enoch, Wisdom of Solomon, and Tobit, are respected and studied for their historical and spiritual insights.

Writings from Other Religions: The Bhagavad Gita, Tao Te Ching, Quran, and teachings of the Buddha, among others, are regarded as valuable sources of wisdom that provide additional perspectives on universal truths.

Non-Canonical Christian Texts: Gnostic texts like the Gospel of Thomas and other early Christian writings are studied to understand diverse early interpretations of Jesus' teachings, though they are not considered equivalent to canonical scriptures.

The Everlight Bible

Everlight Christianity uses a Bible translated with extreme attention to linguistic accuracy and minimal interpretive bias. The ideal Everlight Bible seeks to eliminate doctrinal insertions that occurred over centuries, aiming to present God’s word as it was meant to be understood, close to its original form. This Bible is chosen based on careful examination of translation fidelity and includes marginal notes explaining potential biases and historical contexts.

Key Practices

Everlight Christianity encourages a spiritual practice centered on personal growth, compassion, and knowledge. Key practices include:

Meditative Prayer and Reflection: Emphasizing introspection and personal connection with God, Everlight Christianity encourages regular meditation and contemplation, allowing believers to seek understanding through a direct relationship with the Divine.

Respect for Diverse Beliefs: Believers are encouraged to learn from and respect other religions and philosophies, recognizing God's presence in all honest seekers of truth. This involves studying other texts, engaging in interfaith dialogues, and fostering a spirit of unity.

Focus on Service and Compassion: Everlight Christians prioritize actions that demonstrate love, kindness, and justice. Following Jesus' example, they believe that service to others, especially the marginalized, reflects God's love.

Personal Responsibility in Morality: Morality is seen as a personal alignment with divine wisdom, rather than a strict code imposed from above. Believers are encouraged to explore their actions' effects on others and seek God's guidance in making moral decisions.

Differences from Other Denominations

The distinct beliefs of Everlight Christianity make it unique in the Christian world:

Open Canon of Wisdom: Unlike denominations that restrict study to the Bible, Everlight Christianity invites wisdom from all religions and philosophies.

Scientific Harmony: Everlight Christians believe that science and faith can coexist, seeing scientific discovery as a way to understand God's creation. Evolution, astronomy, and other scientific fields are embraced rather than viewed as threats.

Non-Dualistic View of Light and Dark: Rejecting the light-good, dark-evil dichotomy, Everlight sees both as necessary parts of existence, with God present in both.

Acceptance of Mental Health Diversity: Recognizing that personality traits like sociopathy (Antisocial Personality Disorder) are complex, Everlight Christianity focuses on self-improvement and kindness rather than condemnation.

On Marriage, Sexuality, and Gender

Everlight Christianity adopts a compassionate approach, affirming that love, respect, and mutual consent are more important than rigid definitions. It respects LGBTQ+ individuals, believing God's love transcends human categories and labels. Marriage is understood as a commitment rooted in love, and monogamy or consensual non-monogamy is a personal choice within the bounds of respect and responsibility.

Summary of Beliefs

Everlight Christianity centers on love, wisdom, and unity. It respects all seekers of truth, regardless of their religion, and views God as a universal light present in all cultures and beliefs. With a unique stance on scientific compatibility, inclusivity, and moral nuance, it offers a fresh, open-minded approach to faith that invites questions, honors diversity, and celebrates creation in all its forms. Everlight Christians aim to live out their faith in ways that transcend judgment, embodying God's love for a world that is beautifully varied and richly complex.